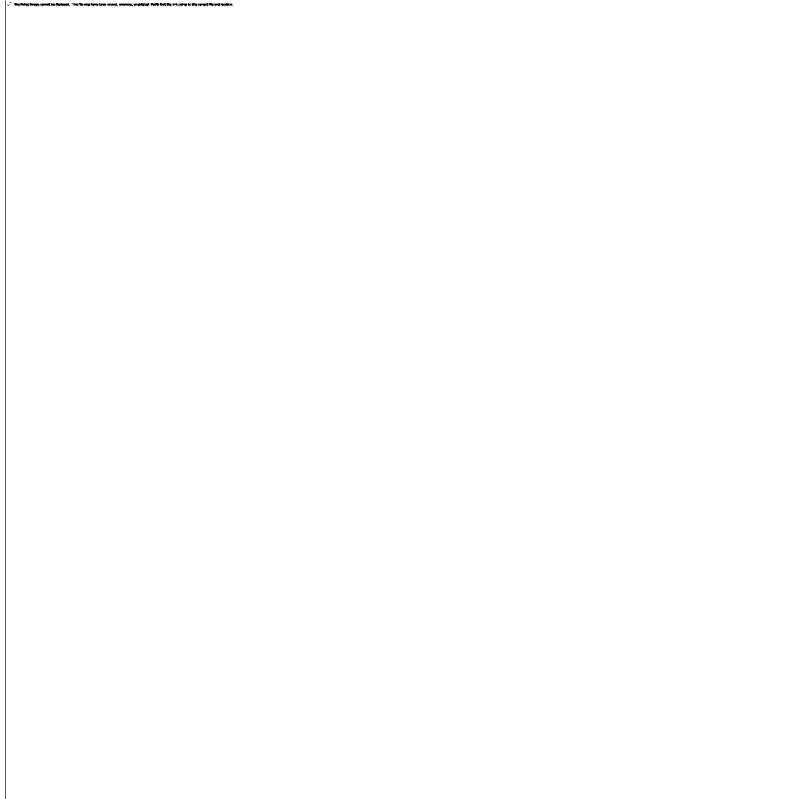
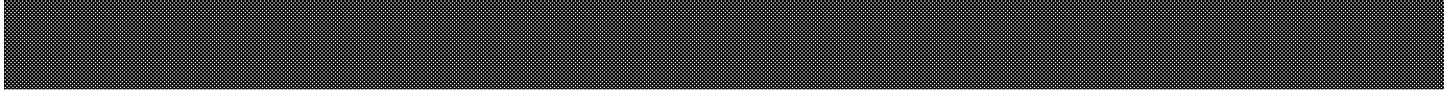


Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 5/7/2018 12:51:17 PM
To: Woods, Clint [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc65010f5c2e48f4bc2aa050db50d198-Woods, Clint]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Brent Crude Hits Highest Level Since 2014 on Concerns About Resumed Iran Sanctions



By [Jacqueline Toth](#)

Top Stories

- Worries about a resumption of U.S. sanctions on Iran pushed up the price of Brent crude oil to \$75.89 a barrel, its highest level since November 2014. The surge in oil prices followed a warning from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani that it would be a "historic" mistake for the United States to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. ([Financial Times](#))

- ConocoPhillips Co. is trying to take the Caribbean facilities on Curacao, Bonaire and St. Eustatius owned by Venezuela's Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. to enforce the \$2 billion arbitration award it recently won in a lawsuit against PDVSA for the nationalization of oil projects more than 10 years ago in Venezuela, according to three sources. The facilities on the three islands are important to PDVSA's oil processing, storing and blending operations and accounted for around a quarter of Venezuela's oil exports in 2017. ([Reuters](#))
- ISO-New England, the grid operator for New England, asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for permission to work toward a reliability must-run agreement to prevent the retirement of two units of an Exelon generating station in Middlesex, Mass., according to a filing. Exelon has said it intends to retire the two units once their capacity supply obligations expire May 31, 2022, but losing the two units, ISO-NE said, would result in violations of mandatory reliability standards. ([Platts](#))
- New Volkswagen AG Chief Executive Herbert Diess has received a safe-passage assurance from the Justice Department that allows him to travel freely around the world without fear of being arrested in relation to VW's emissions cheating scandal, according to two sources. Diess, who was appointed as head of the automaker last month, also has a spoken assurance that he will be told in advance if prosecutors will charge him as part of their ongoing investigation into the scandal. ([Bloomberg](#))
- According to newly released internal emails, political appointees of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt reviewed records collected in response to Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to Pruitt's activities, which slowed the speed of information released under the act. The emails show that political staff also chastised career EPA staff for releasing files without first letting them screen the documents. ([Politico](#))

Chart Review

New Estimates Show Rapid Growth in Off-Grid Renewables
International Renewable Energy Agency

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

MONDAY

American Wind Energy Association Windpower conference 8 a.m.

Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
markup of FY2019 spending bill 5:30
p.m.

TUESDAY

American Wind Energy Association Windpower conference	7 a.m.
Combined Heat and Power Association 2018 Policy Forum	8:30 a.m.
The Wall Street Journal's The Future of Everything Festival	8:30 a.m.
Atlantic Council event on the future of global energy	9 a.m.
U.S. Energy Association event on the economic benefits of U.S. LNG exports	10 a.m.
Wilson Center event on energy efficiency and carbon emissions in China and U.S. buildings	10 a.m.
International Energy Agency webinar on biofuels in the marine sector	10 a.m.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing on Puerto Rico's electric grid	10 a.m.
American Wind Action 'True American Power' reception	5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

American Wind Energy Association Windpower conference	7 a.m.
Oil Price Information Service event on West Coast fuel supply and transportation opportunities	8 a.m.
The Wall Street Journal's The Future of Everything Festival	8:30 a.m.
Combined Heat and Power Association 2018 Policy Forum	9 a.m.
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions conversation on U.S. nuclear power plants	9:30 a.m.
Senate Public Lands, Forests and Mining Subcommittee hearing on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service law enforcement	10 a.m.

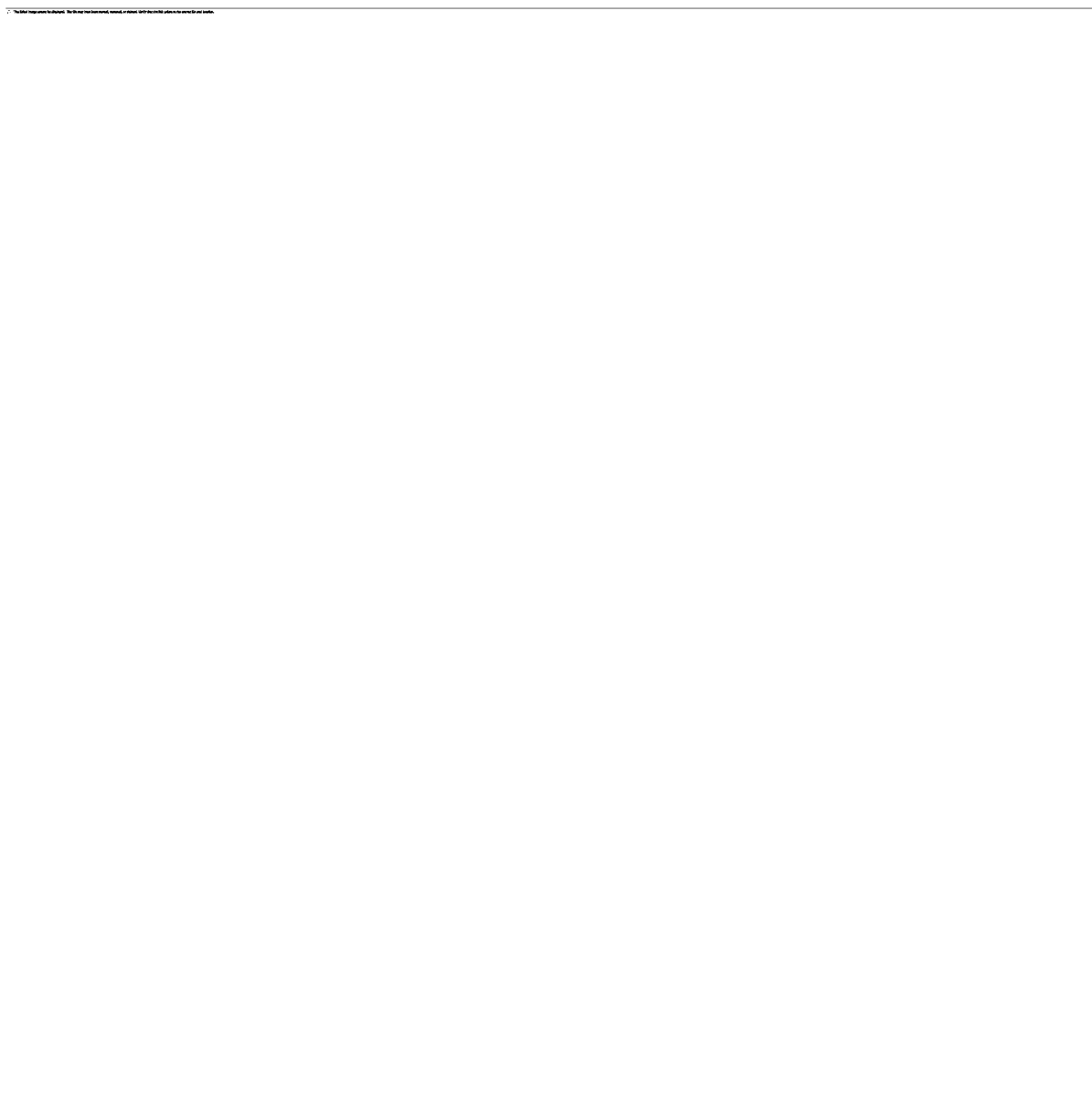
Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on water infrastructure legislation	10 a.m.
House Foreign Affairs markup of energy legislation	10 a.m.
Senate Indian Affairs hearing on Tara Sweeney's nomination to be an assistant secretary at the Interior Department	2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Oil Price Information Service event on West Coast fuel supply and transportation opportunities	6 a.m.
American Wind Energy Association Windpower conference	7 a.m.
The Wall Street Journal's The Future of Everything Festival	8:30 a.m.
Federal Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee meeting on U.S. renewable energy products and services	8:30 a.m.
Environmental Law Institute event on change in infrastructure reviews and permitting	9 a.m.
The Washington Post Energy 202 Live event	9 a.m.
Energy Subcommittee hearing on electric transmission infrastructure	10 a.m.
U.S. Energy Association event on coal utilization	1 p.m.
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and U.S. Conference of Mayors webinar on city-utility partnerships in clean energy	2 p.m.
New York City Bar Association panel discussion on the role of natural gas in a low-carbon economy	6 p.m.

FRIDAY

No events scheduled



These are the Most Loved Brands in America

The brands that define American culture and commerce, ranked using over 250,000 survey interviews with U.S. adults.

General

EPA clamps down on document requests linked to Pruitt **Alex Guillén, Politico**

Top aides to Scott Pruitt at the Environmental Protection Agency are screening public records requests related to the embattled administrator, slowing the flow of information released under the Freedom of Information Act - at times beyond what the law allows.

Pruitt's problematic security had a playbook **Sara Ganim et al., CNN**

Make protection feel like a perk. Cultivate a healthy paranoia. Eliminate the usual annoyances of travel.

Senate Banking Chair Mike Crapo Set Up Campaign Shop in Scott Pruitt's Lobbyist Pad **Lachlan Markay et al., The Daily Beast**

The townhouse that served as a cut-rate rental pad for EPA administrator Scott Pruitt doubled as a veritable campaign headquarters for one of the most powerful chairman in the U.S. Senate.

Couple who rented condo to Pruitt pays fine to D.C. **Anthony Adragna, Politico**

The lobbyist couple whose condo EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt leased for \$50 a night paid a \$2,034 fine Friday for wrongly renting out the property, a spokesman for the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs said.

New Interior guidance prohibits telling developers Endangered Species Act permits are mandatory **Miranda Green, The Hill**

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) staff can no longer advise builders they need to obtain a permit mandated by law to maintain endangered species habitat, according to new Interior Department guidance.

The man who could replace Scott Pruitt **Eric Wolff, Politico**

The man poised to take the reins at the Environmental Protection Agency if Scott Pruitt falls to scandal is a longtime Washington insider and coal

lobbyist who would pursue the same anti-regulation agenda - only without all of Pruitt's baggage.

Iran nuclear worries pushes crude oil to 4-year high
Stephen Smith, Financial Times

Brent crude on Monday touched its highest level since 2014 as oil prices increased on rising tension between the US and Iran.

Oil and Natural Gas

Conoco moves to take over Venezuelan PDVSA's Caribbean assets - sources
Marianna Parraga et al., Reuters

U.S. oil firm ConocoPhillips has moved to take Caribbean assets of Venezuela's state-run PDVSA to enforce a \$2 billion arbitration award over a decade-oil nationalization of its projects in the South American country, according to three sources familiar with its actions.

Oil MLPs Are Beckoning Again, but Know the Risks
Jeff Brown, The Wall Street Journal

Oil producers are pumping fiercely, and crude prices are up since last summer but still below previous peaks. Car buyers are grabbing gas-guzzling pickups and SUVs. World demand for oil is growing.

Utilities and Infrastructure

ISO-NE seeks US FERC permission to keep Exelon units online for fuel security
Marcy Crane, Platts

In an apparent first, the New England grid operator has asked federal regulators for permission to pursue a reliability must-run agreement to keep two retiring units of Exelon's Mystic Generating Station in Middlesex, Massachusetts, online to address reliability risks related to "fuel security."

How Storms, Missteps and an Ailing Grid Left Puerto Rico in the Dark
James Glanz et al., The New York Times

It took months to restore electricity in Puerto Rico after hurricanes dealt a one-two punch. Many homes are still without power, and the system's future is far from certain.

Illinois to sue EPA for exempting Foxconn plant from pollution controls

Valerie Volcovici, Reuters

Illinois' Attorney General said on Friday she plans to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for allowing a proposed Foxconn Technology Co Ltd plant in neighboring Wisconsin to operate without stringent pollution controls.

Renewables

Western coal-burning giant embraces wind

Benjamin Storrow, E&E News

A Western utility giant has so much wind that it has begun to turn its back on fossil fuels.

Coal

Trump admin cites Paris targets to expand Mont. coal mine

Dylan Brown, E&E News

Even while President Trump is pulling the United States out of the Paris Agreement, his administration is citing other nations' climate goals to justify expanding a Montana coal mine.

Nuclear

Top-level turmoil at EPA raises local concern about West Lake Landfill progress

Bryce Gray, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

As Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt faces a mounting list of ethics and spending complaints, many locally wonder how the controversy will affect the West Lake Landfill Superfund site.

Climate

VW CEO Given Rare U.S. Safe-Passage Deal

Tom Schoenberg et al., The Wall Street Journal

Not long after U.S. authorities filed sealed charges against Volkswagen AG's old chief executive officer, they granted the new CEO a rare safe-passage deal.

EPA's climate change website went down a year ago for 'updating.' It's still not back.

Chris Mooney, The Washington Post

The news came on a Friday evening in late April last year: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had removed an informational website about climate change, taking down a page that had been up, in some form, for nearly two decades and under three presidents.

IG will probe alleged censoring of draft NPS climate study

Michael Doyle et al., E&E News

The Interior Department's Office of Inspector General will scrutinize alleged alterations to a pending National Park Service report related to climate change and rising sea levels.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

The future is in supercomputers

Energy Secretary Rick Perry, CNN

Technology is easy to take for granted, but it has an incredible impact. Computers, for instance, are commonplace, but they give us extraordinary capabilities. And we may only be seeing the beginnings of their potential.

The EPA's new 'secret science' rule makes sense from a risk-assessment perspective

Michael Dourson, Washington Examiner

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's recent announcement that EPA will not use "secret science" - that is science for which the underlying data is not available - is challenging. Whereas EPA is routinely in receipt of unpublished toxicity studies for chemicals designed for commerce, not all important scientific findings are publishable.

Clean water is essential to health care around the globe
William Reilly, The Hill

When four British hospitals shut down for all but emergency care due to a major waterline burst, bedpans, bottled water and hand gel were handed out and patients were asked to not flush toilets.

Scott Pruitt's breathtaking corruption is part of Paul Ryan's legacy
Jennifer Rubin, The Washington Post

Using your government job to check off travel destinations on your bucket list is just about the swampiest gambit in a long list of Pruitt's abuses.

Don't prop up coal if the economy can't
The Editorial Board, Washington Examiner

Don't prop up coal if the economy can't. One of the reasons President Trump was elected is that President Barack Obama's launched a mean-spirited and heavy-handed campaign to kill coal as a source of electricity.

A power primer for the Trump era
Amy Harder, Axios

Electricity, the thing we all use but don't really notice, has unexpectedly become a hot topic under President Trump.

Research Reports

Climate-driven shifts in sediment chemistry enhance methane production in northern lakes
E. J. S. Emilson, Nature Communications

Freshwater ecosystems are a major source of methane (CH₄), contributing 0.65 GtC yr⁻¹ towards global carbon emissions and offsetting ~25% of the terrestrial carbon sink. Most freshwater CH₄ emissions come from littoral sediments, where large quantities of plant material are decomposed.





This email was sent by: Morning Consult
PO Box 27068 Washington, DC, 20038, US
[Manage your email preferences](#)

SUBSCRIBE